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25X1A

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25X1X

SOURCE

I. IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE SLANSKY TRIAL

1. In source's opinion the officials in the East German Government who are most endangered at present are those who are members of the so-called English and Mexican emigrations--those who during the war sought refuge in Great Britain or Mexico. The Mexican emigration is endangered because it was made up mostly of Jews and because its members were in close association with Paul Merker.
2. After the Rajk trial in Hungary and the Noel Field affair, the Merker affair broke in Germany in 1950. Following the removal of Merker from his post as State Secretary for Agriculture, many members of the Mexican emigration were interrogated by the East German police. As a result of these interrogations, the Mexican emigration, which heretofore had been mostly in Berlin, was divided and its members sent to different parts of East Germany.
3. Since the Merker incident no member of the Mexican emigration has dared to talk with any other.

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Membership in the World Jewish Community, Menorah, and the Comité Central Israelita--an organization of all Jews no matter what nationality in Mexico--was by implication particularly condemned. Membership in Menorah was especially damaging because it later became affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

4. SLANSKY TRIAL: The Slansky trial broke upon source with a shock of suddenness. Among his acquaintances there was absolutely no discussion of the implications

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

25X1A

69

SECRET

25X1A

-2-

afraid to be seen talking to each other because they might later be accused of having plotted together. The young people in the SED accepted the revelations as just another trial. They had no connection with the personalities involved and no realization of the implications. There was some speculation as to how someone as high as the secretary-general of a national communist party could be guilty of such activity as that of which he was accused, but this is as far as the speculation went.

5. The Slansky trial and the approaching purges and arraignments in East Germany are believed to be aimed at the liquidation of the group of officials who advocated cooperation or who actually did work with the Allies during World War II. All those who were for cooperation are to be eliminated, and the new Moscow-oriented group is to be put in sole control of party and nation.
6. What is now going on within the NDP is definitely the beginning of a purge. This purge, it is believed, may soon spread to other bourgeois parties. The SED itself is in the preparatory stages of a cleaning out. Scapegoats will be easy to find: For example, Merker, who could be blamed for the food crisis, and Willi Kreikmeyer, formerly head of the Reichsbahn, who could be blamed for the chaotic transportation system.

II. THE MEXICAN EMIGRATION

7. Members of the Mexican emigration who are at present endangered in East Germany include Ludwig Renn, Alexander Abusch, Erich Jungmann. In Mexico Abusch lived in the same building as André Simon of the Prague trials. Renn, Abusch, Merker, and others signed a declaration while they were in Mexico stating that after the war Jews would have both Jewish and German nationality. It is believed that were this declaration discovered, it would certainly mean the doom of those who signed it.
8. Immediately after the Prague trials Georg Krauss of Neues Deutschland, who had been that paper's correspondent at the trial, stated in a conversation that in his opinion the whole business of the Mexican emigration had much more to it than could be seen on the surface and that it was definitely mixed up with the whole international Jewish-Zionist plot. Krauss laid special emphasis on the association of members of the emigration with André Simon.
9. Renn was President of the Free German Movement in Mexico. He is not Jewish; in spite of this he has been relegated to an unimportant post. Although he is a well-known author in his own right, Renn is not being used by the SED.
10. Erich Jungmann was the secretary of the Mexican Free German Movement and worked with Merker. He and Merker were the actual leading political figures of the group. Jungmann was also demoted after the Merker affair. He is believed to be in Potsdam, where he is the editor of a newspaper or magazine. Jungmann's wife is the sister of the wife of Egon Erwin Kisch, "the flying reporter." Kisch, a Jew, has since died, but he was also a close friend of André Simon.
11. Hilde Neumann, at present in the East German judiciary, was a member of Menorah in Mexico--an association of German-speaking Jews. She is the daughter of Kurt Rosenfeld, who was Minister of Justice in the Weimar Republic. Rosenfeld was a member of SAP, as was Neumann. Hans Marum, a Jew, went to Mexico in the same ship as Merker. After his return to the DDR, he became an editor on Neues Deutschland. Following the Field affair, however, he was exiled to Chemnitz. He is a friend of Jungmann; his present whereabouts are unknown.
12. Georg Stibi, formerly chief editor of the Berliner Zeitung, later became deputy to Gerhard Eisler. He was fired from his job because of alleged suspicious connections and was exiled to Dresden. In October 1952 Stibi was reported to have been ejected from the SED. His present whereabouts are likewise unknown.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

Oskar Margun was fired from his HO job and given a position in the Konsum. He was later fired from this post and made head of an unimportant office--HO Sportwaren. While in the HO, he was associated with Paul Baender.

III. GENERAL

14. Source knows of no Jews who emigrated to Moscow during the war and who now hold high positions in East Germany. Likewise source has no knowledge of Jews who were in concentration camps during the war and who now hold important jobs.
15. Philipp Daub was in charge of the Cadre Section of the SED but was removed in 1950 because he was a member of the American emigration and a friend of Paul Merker. Otto Schoen now gives the orders in the Cadre Section, but Anton Joos is the man who actually gives them out. Joos is about 43 but looks about 60. He is himself a member of the West emigration.
16. All the members of the SED Central Committee live very withdrawn lives in the "Ghetto" in Pankow. They have no social life to speak of and spend most of their time working.
17. It is believed that there is now no contention between Grotewohl and Ulbricht. Formerly Grotewohl did have some ideas of his own, but he has long since capitulated to Ulbricht.
18. It is believed by leaders of the SED that ratification of the contractual agreements of the EDC cannot be stopped in West Germany by parliamentary means; and therefore they are continually calling for mass action, strikes, and other nonparliamentary methods of blocking the legal acceptance of the agreements. It is believed that this is the reason the SPD is being attacked as betraying the working classes--because the SPD refuses to sanction the use of extra-parliamentary means of agitation against the agreement. The SED will continue to agitate even though it expects ratification. Source does not believe that there will be a concerted campaign against the large farmers (Grossbauern) because any such action would mean that the State would have to take charge of overseeing the farms. Ulbricht has stated that no action will be taken against the Grossbauern as a class but only against individuals who break the law.
19. Rudolf Herrnstadt, who was with the Berliner Zeitung before becoming chief editor of the Neues Deutschland, and Hermann Axen do not feel themselves threatened as a result of the Slansky trial although both are Jews.

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